



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Railroad
Administration

DATE OF TRANSMISSION

(Insert at Tab 19)

00A 7257-15

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Training and Qualification of Safety-Critical Personnel
(Planning Task)

Task No. : 2000-3

IRA-00-7257-15

Date presented to the RSAC: January 28, 2000

Purpose:

To evaluate the adequacy of existing FRA and industry requirements and programs to train, qualify, and document the qualifications of employees and other personnel who perform safety-critical functions, recommending any additional actions that should be taken through the RSAC.

Description:

This is a planning task that requires examination of FRA regulations, existing industry programs, and safety data related to the knowledge, skills and abilities of persons who perform safety-critical functions concerning the safety of railroad operations. The fitness of those persons for duty and the discharge by those persons of safety-critical duties may also be considered.

For this purpose, "safety-critical" suggests the ability to have a direct impact on safety and is intended to be comparable to the class of persons performing functions covered by 49 CFR § 209.303 (e.g., persons subject to the Hours of Service Act, persons involved in track safety or equipment safety, and persons in places of responsibility over them). However, the planning group shall retain discretion to expand or refine these classifications.

For reasons of efficiency, the planning group is requested not to engage in detailed, substantive review of recently issued requirements that were based on notice and public comment, such as the revisions to 49 CFR Part 214, Subpart C (Roadway Worker Protection), 49 CFR Part 213 (Track Safety Standards), 49 CFR Part 240 (Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers), 49 CFR Part 238 (Passenger Equipment Safety Standards), or 49 CFR Part 239 (Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness). (In addition, specific training requirements regarding Freight Power Brakes are the subject of a separate proceeding for which a final rule was nearing completion as this task statement

was considered.) However, the planning group should consider how any larger system of training or qualification might incorporate, or be dovetailed with, such existing or pending requirements.

Issues requiring specific report:

Determine whether safety data indicates any material deficiency in the training or qualification of safety-critical personnel, their fitness for duty, or their commitment to sound discharge of that duty, that warrants further action in which the FRA should participate, including.. . .

- The personnel affected by any such deficiency (by safety-critical function(s));
- The nature of any such FRA participation (e.g., rulemaking, program development, leadership through Safety Assurance and Compliance Programs);
- Identification of other parties that have a stake in successful and proportional resolution of this issue; and
- The nature of the action apparently indicated (e.g., training requirements, formal qualification requirements, and/or certification requirements).

To the extent any such significant, unmet needs are identified for which regulatory action is recommended, the planning group may provide draft RSAC task statements for FRA review.

Source:

Request by the United Transportation Union that RSAC consider certification of train conductors.

Expressions of interest in evaluating training, qualification or certification requirements for other safety-critical employees.

Refer to/establish following working group:

Training and Qualification Planning Group

Target dates:

To be determined by the planning group and reported to the full Committee.

Disposition: Postponement of consideration.

Date: 1/28/2000